



**Belmont Human Rights Commission Meeting  
Belmont Town Hall  
September 8, 2011**

**Meeting minutes**

Members present: Carl Brauer, Jirair Hovespian Pallavi Khare, Regina O'Brien, Paul Solomon, Fran Yuan (Chair)

Liaisons: Kathryn Bonfiglio (BAR), Peter Hoerr (BPD), David Sullivan (BHS)

Belmont Against Racism members: Jonathan Jaccoby, Charlene O'Connor

Meeting convened 7:05 pm

1. The phone and minutes roster was determined. Starting with Carl for Sept-Oct, it will go in alphabetical order by the first names of members.
2. The June and July minutes were unanimously accepted.
3. Fran reported having a conversation with Nancy Marsh, former manager of Waverly Woods. She encouraged us to follow up with another meeting this year at the site. She sometimes questioned the sensitivity of police in dealing with residents there.
4. All agreed that meeting at other venues in an outreach effort was a good idea to give exposure and people can open up to a problem more because the commission is present.  
Some ideas that were generated were: hold a meeting at Beech Street Center, though this was done and only a couple people attended; have a speaker at the high school; meet at Chenery School community room.
5. Fran explained plans for an intergenerational video project at Beech Street Center. She handed out the flyer and description that will go in the Senior Notes bulletin. Some

of the issues have been: people segregating themselves by groups, people not liking the idea of a gay men's support group which is being started there, concern about people's intolerant bluntness with one another.

Some needs at the Beech Street Center were mentioned:

- speaker could explain goals at the Beech Street Center and what it is. (Jerry)
- get more students involved in our project (Fran)
- publicize what the final outcome or event of the project will be
- having a push pin world map marking where people are from (David)

6. Jonathan gave the history of Belmont against Racism and explained what it is involved in now. Most of their involvement is focused on the METCO program and making sure that those students feel comfortable in Belmont and get their needs met. They have helped to fund transportation and after school programs for METCO as well as having dialogues with METCO parents.

7. Both BAR and HRC need new people. Fran felt that as a governmental commission, its focus needed to be on all parts of the Belmont community. Outreach is needed to let more people know about us and what we do. BAR and HRC should talk together more and share ideas. Kathryn expressed the need for a town calendar with all multicultural related programs to be listed. Fran will look into have business cards made up for the HRC. She could send an email to the houses of worship looking for another HRC member and letting them know about our events.

The question of fundraising was brought up by Jerry but it was felt that the HRC was able to obtain funds when needed and most programs didn't cost money. Fundraising would take too much energy.

8. Capt. Hoerr offered to speak at our next meeting about the Safe Communities program and how police in Belmont will deal with undocumented individuals.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

David Sullivan